



Green Mountain/Finger Lakes National Forests
Rainbow Family National Gathering
Information Update
July 3, 2016

Contact: Nadine Pollock, National Incident Management Team Public Information Officer, 814-203-7066
Ethan Ready, Green Mountain National Forest Public Affairs Officer, 802-355-1724
Incident Command Post, 414-232-8355

July 3, 2016.

5,119 Rainbow Family members are currently camping on Forest Road 10 near Mount Tabor. As of July 2, 2016, 1,111 cars and 45 buses are at the gathering site. Parking challenges continue. To date, nearly 100 cars have been towed from the gathering site for parking violations and impeding the passage of emergency vehicles. Local residents should use caution travelling to the site.

Starting the evening of July 4th traffic on FR 10 into Mt. Tabor / Danby will increase as some members begin departing the gathering site. Traffic is expected to be heavy through the early part of the week as gathering participants continue to depart the area. Local businesses may also be impacted similarly to when members arrived at the gathering.

To date, 182 warning notices and 164 violation notices have been issued. 98 incident reports or unsolved crimes are being investigated. Varying amounts of illegal drugs and narcotics continue to be confiscated from the gathering site. The law enforcement officers are not charging those who are in compliance with the Vermont's medical marijuana laws.

Negative issues from Rainbow Family continue as participation increases in advance of their July 4th celebration. Common issues include panhandling for food and money, loitering, shoplifting and sleeping in local residents' yards.

Law enforcement officers report that Rainbow Family members have worked collaboratively to ensure parking congestion is minimized and passage is safe for traffic. Transportation passes have been issued for shuttle vehicles, food supply delivery and medical transport.

Law enforcement for this gathering is a cooperative effort between the Rutland County Sheriff, Vermont State Police, Manchester Police Department, Bennington Police Department and Forest Service officers. Both federal, state and local law enforcement officers are conducting these enforcement actions based on accepted legal and constitutional practices based on both state and federal law. Law enforcement agencies strictly adhere to preserving the civil right of all citizens and providing fair, equitable and reasonable treatment.

Local medical facilities have noted a sharp increase in requests for treatment of sexually transmitted diseases associated with the Rainbow Family gathering.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



“Welcome Home” is the standard greeting shouted around the gathering as new family members arrive at the annual event.